

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 11/28/23

Mayor Ing-Mody called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Council Members present: Mayor Ing-Moody
Alan Caswell
Hans Smith
Mark Easton
Aaron Studen

Council Member absent: Katrina Auburn

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Caswell led the pledge of allegiance.

Request for Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:

N/A

Public Comment Period:

LaShelle Easton-

Commented on the TwispWorks Master Plan stating that it is referenced several times in the Twisp Municipal Code. She noted that in her opinion, the proposed TwispWorks Master Plan does not address the issues referenced by the Twisp Municipal Code. She requested that the Town either require that the Master Plan address these issues, or, failing that, that they amend the code to ensure the issues are properly addressed.

Buddy Thomas-

Commented that he is concerned after reading an article in the paper about the Yakima Nation's Flood Plains by design project. He said his main concern is for the residents that will be displaced and those that are not property owners living in low-cost housing in Town as the need for more low-cost housing is already a major concern for Town. He requested that when in discussion with the Yakima Nation to not marginalize those that will be displaced if the project goes through as the paper did by calling the homes that people would be displaced from "Simple Structures". Mr. Thomas said that they are not "simple structures" they are homes to important members of our community.

Mayors Report:

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that Town has continued to be busy with audits, budget, and year-end work as well as preparing for a smooth administrative transition into the new year.

Staff Reports:

Clerk Kilmer-

Reported that the auditors have been onsite the week before Thanksgiving, this week, next week, and possibly into the week thereafter. There is an entrance conference set up with the Finance Committee and Auditors to meet next week. It is expected that they may be wrapping up mid-December and will hopefully have the report published by the end of the year.

Director Denham-

Reported that the WWTP low bidder was within the available funding and the bid tabs are being certified by the engineer. They should be completed this week, and he will have a recommendation for Council at the next meeting. Town received the new radar trailer that was ordered last month, pending some setup and training it will soon be rolled out by staff.

Sheriff Budrow-

Reported that the County has also been going through budget season. He shared that he informed Clerk Kilmer prior to the meeting that the rate per call will be raised from \$500 / call to \$700 / call and apologized that he did not inform the town sooner of the change in contract terms since he believed that Commissioner Hover was informing the Town of Twisp. He said that the new contract would be for 6 months as a temporary extension to enable a longer-term solution to be arranged. Mayor Ing-Moody questioned the increase being so high at 40% despite her understanding last meeting held between Commissioner Hover, Twisp’s Finance Committee, Sheriff Budrow and herself in which only a 16% salary increase was discussed. Following that meeting it was agreed that the County would provide a contract proposal for the Council to consider including the 16% salary impact. Having not received a contract, she noted that at this late date, without having received a contract proposal from the county, that a subsequent meeting be set up immediately with him, Commissioner Hover, Mayor-elect Smith and herself to understand the new rate being proposed, and hopefully agree on an amount to include in the 2024 budget, which is to be passed at the next meeting.

Committee/Commission/Board Reports:

Council Member Easton-

Attended the Chamber meeting where he said they are doing a great job and members of the Chamber will be presenting to Council the items that were discussed at the meeting.

Council Member Caswell-

Attended the Planning Commission meeting where the major discussion was goals for 2024 and the structure of the Commission following the resignation of the Chair, John Battle. Art Tasker was voted to be Chair and Rachel Levi was voted in as Vice Chair. He said they bounced around priorities including the comprehensive plan, housing action plan, municipal code, form-based zoning, and sign code. Council Member Easton asked if the commission had continued discussion regarding nightly rentals. Mayor Ing-Moody shared that is a meeting with legal counsel planned, which is slowing the process down but believes resolution will occur as soon as it is feasible.

Public Hearing/Discussion/Action: 2024 Preliminary Budget

The public hearing was opened at 5:50 PM.
The public hearing was closed at 5:51 PM.

Mayor Ing-Moody gave a brief overview of some of the changes to the budget for 2024. She shared that a few notable changes include deserved salary increases for retention of good staff, a new line item for an investment fund which is to be seeded by a portion of the funds captured from the sale of the fire station; the intention is to enable greater financial stability by providing the town the ability to take advantage of future opportunities requiring capital to further community priorities. In addition to having a healthy reserve fund, the Town would benefit from not using these one-time capital dollars for operating costs and instead sowing options for future needs. Regarding the Water Fund and Sewer Fund, she shared that there will be a 5.5% increase for water and sewer utilities which is in line with historical increases for ongoing operations and maintenance of the system.

Discussion/Action: Public Event Application – Mistletoe Madness

Juliette from the Chamber of Commerce gave a brief presentation explaining the need for the road closure requested and stated that the Chamber spoke to the residents it would affect and they got affirmative answers from everyone that opened their door and left a note for anyone not reached to contact them should they have concerns.

Council Member Easton made a motion to approve the event as presented. Council Member Caswell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: 2024 Twisp Chamber LTAC Request

Vice President Krost gave a presentation on the Chambers 2024 budget request, which is the same as their 2023 request.

Mayor Ing-Moody thanked Vice President Krost for her presentation and the Chamber for all of the hard work they are doing for our business community.

Discussion/Action: 2024 Planner Contract

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the 2024 Planner Contract with the amendment to the end date for a one-year contract. Council Member Easton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Resolution #23-712 – Biosolids Dewatering and Lift Station No. 2 Project Acceptance

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve Resolution #23-712 – Biosolids Dewatering and Lift Station No. 2 Project acceptance. Council Member Easton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Resolution #23-713 – 2024 Fee Schedule

Council requested that the item be brought to a Finance Committee meeting to further discuss particulars with Director Denham.

Consent Agenda

- Accounts Payable/Payroll
- Minutes – 10/24/23

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available to the Town Council. The following voucher/checks are approved for payment by a majority vote on this 28th day of November 2023.

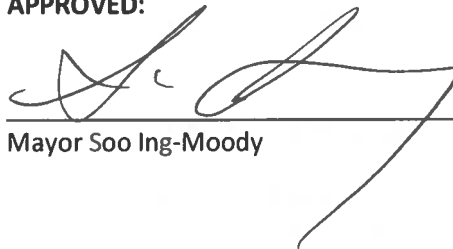
| | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------|
| Accounts Payable | Checks #38224-38259 | \$949,246.94 | 11/28/23 |
| Payroll | EFT Trans #2396-2404 | \$11,178.47 | 11/28/23 |

Council Member Caswell moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 6:23 pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer